

BAY COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS
BANGOR PRECINCT 3-MACHINE/WRITE-IN CHECK
SEPTEMBER 17, 1992

THE BAY COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS MET ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1992 TO RECONDUCT THE RECOUNT OF BANGOR TOWNSHIP PRECINCT #3. CANVASSERS HAD REVIEWED THE WRITE-IN PAPER ROLLS OFF THE MACHINES ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1992 AND FOUND THE VOTING MACHINES FAILED TO PROPERLY IMPRINT WHETHER THE VOTER HAD CAST A REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRATIC WRITE-IN VOTE FOR SUSAN HEGLUND. CANDIDATES, CLERK & CASWELL SERVICES WERE SUMMONED AND PRESENT DURING THE INSPECTION OF THE VOTING MACHINES. CASWELL SERVICES HAD BEEN CONTRACTED TO SET THE MACHINES PRIOR TO THE ELECTION. WRITE-IN ROLLS WERE TO SHOW AN IMPRINT OF ONE PUNCH FOR DEMOCRATIC VOTE AND TWO PUNCHES FOR REPUBLICAN VOTE. ANY OTHER PARTY DESIGNATION WOULD SHOW NO DOTS IMPRINTED ON THE ROLLS. THE PARTIES MET AT THE BANGOR TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT 10:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL: DONALD CHEVALIER, CHAIRMAN
 WALTER WOZNIAK, VICE-CHAIRMAN
 RICHARD BRZEZINSKI, MEMBER

OTHER BARBARA ALBERTSON, CLERK
MEMBERS: LINDA L. TOBER, CHIEF DEPUTY
 CYNTHIA A. LUCZAK, SECRETARY
 MARY IDA DOAN, TALLY CLERK

ALSO PRESENT: JAMES CASWELL, CASWELL SERVICES
 LEONARD JUREK, CASWELL SERVICES
 SUE HEGLUND, CANDIDATE
 KIM HIGGS, COUNTY EXECUTIVE
 JANICE CURILLO, BAY CITY TIMES
 SHARON RUSSELL, BANGOR CLERK
 MARJORIE CARLAND, OBSERVER

CHAIRMAN CHEVALIER EXPLAINED WHAT THE CANVASSERS HAD DISCOVERED WHEN PERFORMING THE RECOUNT OF PRECINCT 3. NOTED WERE PERFORATIONS/PUNCHES FOUND ON THE WRITE IN ROLLS THAT WERE IN ERROR. THE BOARD AND GUESTS WERE SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE VOTING LOCATION TO TEST THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MACHINES TO DETERMINE WHAT HAPPENED.

THE WRITE IN PAPER ROLL WAS LAID ON THE TABLE FOR REVIEW. NOTED WAS THE FACT THAT AS MANY AS FIVE AND SIX PUNCHES HAD BEEN IMPRINTED ON THE ROLL THAT SHOULD HAVE ONLY EVIDENCED ONE OR TWO. INDICATION OF A PARTY BY A VOTER, WOULD AUTOMATICALLY REFLECT A CORRECT NUMBER OF IMPRESSIONS.

MR. CASWELL FELT THE MACHINE MAY HAVE MALFUNCTIONED WHEN THE WRITE-IN SLIDE WAS ACTIVATED FOR PLACEMENT OF A WRITE-IN VOTE. WHEN A WRITE-IN PLATE WAS PUSHED UP, BLOCKS IN THE PERFORATOR ASSEMBLY WERE TO INDICATE A DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN VOTE BY THE NUMBER OF PUNCHES MADE BY THE BLOCKS. WITHOUT A PHYSICAL TEST OF THE MACHINE, MR. CASWELL SPECULATED BLOCKS WITHIN THE PERFORATOR ASSEMBLY FROZE PREVENTING AN IMPRINT OF AN ACCURATE PARTY VOTE. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO MR. CASWELL THAT SOME TYPE OF MALFUNCTION HAD OCCURED DURING THE WRITE-IN VOTING.

VOTES SHOWN ON THE WRITE-IN ROLLS FOR PRECINCT #3 HAD NOT BEEN COUNTED OR CERTIFIED BY THE CANVASSERS AT THIS POINT. DETERMINATION WAS TO BE MADE IF THE VOTES WERE ACCEPTABLE SHOULD THE PARTY DESIGNATION OF THE VOTER BE CLARIFIED.

MR. CASWELL STATED HE WOULD BE LOOKING FOR A PATTERN WITHIN THE IMPRINTS WHEN TESTING THE MACHINE. SHOULD A DEMOCRATIC VOTE BE REFLECTED BY FIVE PUNCHES, THE BOARD COULD COUNT THE FIVE PUNCH MARKS AS DEMOCRATIC. SHOULD REPUBLICAN VOTES IN TESTING BE SHOWN AS SIX MARKS ON THE ROLL, THE BOARD COULD ASSUME THESE WERE REPUBLICAN VOTERS AND THEREFORE ACCEPT THOSE VOTES AS SUCH. TESTING WOULD TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING THIS MEETING AT THE BANGOR WEST SCHOOL.

CANVASSERS COULD NOT DETERMINE WHAT PARTY THE VOTES WERE CAST FOR WHEN LOOKING OVER THE WRITE-IN ROLL ON HAND FOR PRECINCT 3. CHAIRMAN CHEVALIER STATED THERE WERE TOO MANY INCONSISTANCIES IN PARTY PUNCHES FOR THE BOARD TO DECIPHER VOTING OUTCOME. FURTHER, THE VOTES IN QUESTION DID NOT CHANGE THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION BUT WOULD CONFIRM THE NUMBER OF VOTES MS. HEGLUND WOULD HAVE ACTUALLY RECEIVED. THE BOARD'S GOAL WAS TO MAKE SURE ALL VOTES WERE COUNTED IN THE PROPER PLACE.

DURING THE TESTING OF THE MACHINE, MOCK WRITE-IN VOTES WOULD BE CAST FOR ALL PARTIES TO OBSERVE THE NUMBER OF PERFORATIONS MADE BY THE MACHINE. RECORDS WOULD BE KEPT AS TO WHICH PARTY WAS BEING VOTED THE FIRST TRY, SECOND TRY, THIRD TRY AND SO ON.

THE GROUP PROCEEDED TO THE BANGOR WEST SCHOOL FOR TESTING OF THE VOTING MACHINES.

MR. CASWELL CAST A NUMBER OF TEST VOTES ON MACHINE #144566. HE BEGAN WITH A SERIES OF THREE DEMOCRATIC VOTES AND THEN CAST THREE REPUBLICAN VOTES. THE ROLL ON THE BACK OF THE MACHINE WAS THEN INSPECTED. IT APPEARED AS THOUGH THE REPUBLICAN VOTES CONSISTANTLY PUNCHED FIVE INDENTATIONS ON THE ROLL BUT THE DEMO-

CRATIC VOTES WERE UNABLE TO BE DETERMINED AS VOTES FOR THOSE CANDIDATES APPEARED WITH TWO, THREE AND FOUR AND SIX PUNCHES ON THE ROLL. THEREFORE, A PATTERN WAS NOT OBVIOUS ENOUGH FOR THE BOARD TO ACCURATELY COUNT VOTES CAST ON THIS MACHINE FOR HEGLUND. UPON INSPECTION OF THE MECHANICS OF THE MACHINE, CASWELL SERVICES CONFIRMED THE PERFORATION BLOCK ASSEMBLY HAD FROZEN TO PREVENT AN ACCURATE SHOW OF THE VOTERS PARTY PREFERENCE.

CANVASSERS THEN PERFORMED A TEST OF MACHINE #144572 IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE FIRST VOTING MACHINE.

AFTER CONDUCTING THE TESTING OF THIS MACHINE, BOARD MEMBERS OBSERVED THE IMPRINT OF ONE PUNCH FOR EACH DEMOCRATIC VOTE CAST AND THREE PUNCHES FOR EVERY REPUBLICAN VOTE CAST ON MACHINE #144572. THEY CONCLUDED THE VOTES ON THIS MACHINE COULD BE DETERMINED AS A DEFINATE PATTERN WAS EVIDENT. NO PERFORATIONS WERE MADE BY THE MACHINE IF THE VOTER CAST VOTES FOR NO PARTY DESIGNATION.

THE BLOCK ASSEMBLY MECHANISMS WERE LUBRICATED BY THE SERVICE MAN AND TESTED THEREAFTER. CLERK ALBERTSON WAS ASSURED THE MACHINE WOULD BE IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION FOR THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION.

THE BOARD AGREED TO COUNT THE VOTES ON MACHINE #144572 AS A DEFINATE PATTERN OF ONE VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS AND THREE VOTES FOR REPUBLICANS WERE REVEALED. ON THE OTHER HAND, VOTES ON MACHINE #144566 WERE DECLARED VOID AS THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS COULD NOT CONFIRM THE PARTY A VOTER CHOSE FROM THE MACHINE PAPER ROLLS. MEMBERS FINISHED THE CHECK AT BANGOR WEST SCHOOL AND RETURNED TO THE BANGOR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FOR TALLY.

THE OFFICIAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST FOR MS. SUSAN HEGLUND FROM BANGOR PRECINCT #3 (MACHINE 144572) WAS THEN ANNOUNCED.

SUSAN HEGLUND	27 VOTES
HEGLUND (ONLY)	9 VOTES
HEGLUND (REP.)	1 VOTE

MACHINE #144566 OF PRECINCT #3 WAS UNCOUNTABLE. THE VOTES HAD BEEN COUNTED IN THE ORIGINAL CANVAS BY THE BOARD BUT NOT TABULATED DURING RECOUNT.

THE OVERALL TOWNSHIP VOTE FOR MS. HEGLUND INCLUDING THE MACHINE VOTES, A.V. VOTES AND WRITE-IN VOTES WAS ALSO GIVEN.

SUSAN HEGLUND	448 VOTES
HEGLUND	125 VOTES

DISCUSSION WAS HELD IN REGARD TO APPOINTMENT OF RAYMOND MADIGAN AS BANGOR PRECINCT DELEGATE. CANVASSERS FOUND VOTES CAST FOR MR. MADIGAN DURING RECOUNT OF THE A.V. BALLOTS BUT IT WAS BEYOND THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS TO ACT ON THIS MATTER. SUSAN HEGLUND WAS TOLD TO INFORM MR. MADIGAN HE MUST REFER TO THE BANGOR TOWNSHIP CLERK WITH HIS CONCERNS.

BARBARA ALBERTSON STATED SHE HAD NOT EXPERIENCED A MALFUNCTION OF VOTING MACHINES OF THIS NATURE IN HER YEARS WITH THE CLERK'S OFFICE.

FURTHER, WALT WOZNIAK RESPONDED THAT ANY DEVICE OF A MECHANICAL NATURE WAS SUBJECT TO A BREAK DOWN AND THAT A MECHANICAL ERROR WAS BETTER THAN A HUMAN ERROR. THE ELECTION WORKERS WERE RESTRICTED FROM OPENING THE MACHINES ON ELECTION DAY, THEREFORE, HAVING NO REASON TO BELIEVE A PROBLEM WAS OCCURING.

THE TESTING AND RECOUNTING OF BANGOR PRECINCT #3 VOTES WAS CONCLUDED AT 12:00 NOON.

Donald Chevalier

Walter Wozniak

Richard Brzezinski